



## DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

BOBBY JINDAL  
GOVERNOR

PEGGY M. HATCH  
SECRETARY

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**Contact:** Tim Beckstrom

**Telephone:** 225.219.3967

### **State, feds reach agreement with Saint-Gobain Containers**

BATON ROUGE – The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality announced today that it has joined federal agencies and other state and local agencies in a proposed settlement with Saint-Gobain Containers, Inc. The agreement calls for Saint-Gobain to pay \$100,000 to DEQ to settle DEQ's claims for civil penalties for violations of the state's air quality regulations at the glass container manufacturing facility located in Ruston.

The violations include building a new glass furnace without the proper permits, permits exceedances and a modification of a glass furnace without the proper permits.

Under the proposed settlement, Saint-Gobain is also responsible for reducing air pollutant emissions at the Ruston plant. Those reductions are estimated to be 445 tons per year of nitrogen oxides and 25 tons per year of sulfur dioxide. The company will also pay penalties in other states as well as reduce emissions.

The proposed agreement, or consent decree, was filed today in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington by the U.S. Justice Department, on behalf of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

DEQ and the other state and local agencies filed motions to intervene in that suit today, so that they can be parties to the consent decree. After Louisiana's 45-day public comment period, DEQ will review any comments received, and decide whether to propose any revisions to the consent decree. The federal government and the other state and local agencies will also consider public comments. Once the settlement is finalized, the agencies will ask the judge to sign the decree.